

hone its efficiency and effectiveness in submarine repair.

While advancing these reforms, Secretary Mabus visited Navy and Marine Corps installations across the globe, traveling over 1.3 million miles to over 150 countries and territories and all 50 States. When measured in distance, Secretary Mabus has travelled to the moon and back almost three times. In 2009, he and I visited the hard-working men and women at BIW and PMSI together. Since that first visit, Secretary Mabus has worked tirelessly to support our shipbuilding industrial base and ensure our Navy and Marine Corps have the tools they need to succeed.

In addition, Secretary Mabus's leadership in 2010 on the Gulf Coast's long-term recovery plan following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill was exemplary. His work securing the future of the Gulf Coast made Americans and certainly his home State of Mississippi proud.

Finally, his emphasis on platforms, power, and partnerships allowed our Navy to grow in strength, but Secretary Mabus never forgot those who make the system work: the people.

Secretary Mabus was instrumental in advancing the repeal of don't ask, don't tell in 2011, a harmful policy that barred Americans from serving their country simply because of their sexual orientation. His efforts helped to ensure that all patriots who willingly answer the call to arms may proudly serve their Nation.

Similarly, as discussions on military integration have evolved with a new focus on women in combat, Secretary Mabus again stepped up to become a leader on gender equality in the military. His support for integration of women into the Navy and Marine Corps, in all occupations and specialties, and his expansion of maternity leave have ensured that women can serve in the military jobs they love.

Secretary Mabus has also taken steps to support career flexibility, continuing education, and family well-being for all members of the Navy and Marine Corps. He worked to ensure that all those who serve in uniform are provided the mental health care they need and deserve. By supporting and empowering a dedicated, intelligent, and committed personnel base, Secretary Mabus has enabled our Navy to remain the powerful fighting force that it is today.

With his retirement, we lose a true patriot who served his country as a civilian, as well as in uniform, and we lose a visionary leader who saw how our Armed Forces could be better—and did everything in his power to make it happen. It has been a personal and professional pleasure to work with Secretary Mabus, and I wish him fair winds and following seas.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND STEPHANIE HEKKEL

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing John and Stephanie Hekkel of Anaconda in celebration of the rebuilding of Club Moderne.

The bar had been considered an area landmark since its founding in 1937 and was truly a sight to behold. With its rounded front facade and Carrara glass panels, it reflected the Art Deco style of the time of its founding. It was designed by Bozeman-based architect Fred Willson and built by local carpenters and craftspeople under the direction of the first owner, John "Skinny" Francisco.

Until recently, the Club Moderne had changed very little since its opening day, and in 1986, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1997, the Francisco family sold the bar to a close friend, longtime bartender, and Anaconda native John Hekkel who continued its legacy as a flagship watering hole, especially for area law enforcement and firefighters, while maintaining its retro atmosphere.

A recent Yelp review described taking a step inside "like walking inside a time capsule!"

Last April, it also won the top award in The Big Tap: 2016 Historic Bars Tournament Championship, an online contest sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Unfortunately, Club Moderne was destroyed in a fire in October, a tragic loss to the Anaconda community.

The night the fire happened, I understand John Hekkel stayed at the bar until 4:00 in the morning and, after the fire was extinguished, grabbed a shovel and physically helped with the cleanup.

Just this week, I was thrilled to hear the Hekkel announce plans to rebuild the bar and restore this historic establishment.

This is a true Montana story. Montanans pull themselves up by their bootstraps, even in times of hardship or loss.

I invite fellow Montanans to stop by to try whatever's on tap or a Moscow Mule, which is an Anaconda specialty.

The Hekkel, through Club Moderne, have welcomed those just passing through our State and native Montanans alike for generations. As small business owners, they have brought their community together. I wish them all my best as they restore Club Moderne and renew it as a bright spot in the Anaconda community. I look forward to visiting with John and Stephanie there when they reopen.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:29 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 21. An act to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes.

H.R. 69. An act to authorize the Office of Special Counsel, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide modifications to authorities relating to the Office of Special Counsel, and for other purposes.

H.R. 70. An act to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes.

H.R. 71. An act to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes.

H.R. 72. An act to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information.

H.R. 73. An act to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes.

H. J. Res. 3. Joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills and joint resolution were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 21. An act to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 69. An act to reauthorize the Office of Special Counsel, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide modifications to authorities relating to the Office of Special Counsel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 70. An act to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 71. An act to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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